

The Rev^d W^m. Whittaker Manchester, } 317
April 4th 1778. }

My worthy Friend, I must remind you once more of good old Alfred's laws will. You promised me a literal translation of it. and you told me, that you had (very obligingly) procured one from M^r. Manning for me. But I have never received it. and I fear that you have forgotten me. Your attention to the will of a crafty monarch has made you lose sight of that of a wise one. Be so kind therefore, my friend, to recall your attentions to a so much worthier object, and oblige me with M^r. Manning's version. Directed for me at my Bookseller's, M^r. Murray's, N^o. 32 Fleet-street, it will be sent down to me speedily.

What new work is your active mind meditating at present? What is St. Joseph's? Your untired spirits are ever on the wing after some new object of history; while mine, exhausted by my late betsy excursion, are unfitted for a new flight at present, & indeed for months to come. The last volume of Manchester (in which, by the way, I have made a proper acknowledgment to you for your communications) has so unhinged me, by the pains that such a trifle cost me, as obliged me for my health's sake to leave London of moment I had finished

my business there, and return into the country ~~here~~. and here
I spend my time, in ~~the~~ all the triflingness of studious
indulgence, afraid to engage in any serious kind of reading,
and dreading every thing that requires much exertion of
thought, amusing myself with the antique part of the
Universal History, Pope's works, female conversation,
the cold bath, ~~and~~ walking, and riding. I did intend
when I first came down, to have written a pamphlet
in vindication of the authenticity of the Highland
Poems against Dr. Johnson; and I promised Mr. Macpher-
son to do it. But since I came down, and my atten-
tion to my health has made me think less of
Macpherson or of Opian, I have been glad to find
that the former has neglected to send me the ac-
tices that he was to gain for me from Scotland,
and that I am fairly released from the business.
Had I gone on with this, I might have had an oppor-
tunity of paying my respects to my Brethren at
the Crown and Archer, once at least this winter. But
now I am unhappily deprived of the opportunity, and
I beg that you will present my best respects to
the President and society, and let them know how
unhappy I am in losing the advantages of so agreeable
a meeting, and in being obliged, from a principle of

justice as well as politeness to them, & resign up my place
among them to some worthier person.

Pray present my best respects, ^{also} to S^r. Joseph. I took
the liberty to mention his name in my 2^d. Volume. and I did
it the more, as it gave me an opportunity of calling my-
self, what I am proud to be, his Friend. - My respects
wait upon M^r. Blythe and M^r. Gopham. I write in favour
of the latter's relation in Oxford, to put him in possession
of my chambers there.

O beg, my friend, to hear from you. and let me
know what you are doing, particularly, in Chancery Lane.
Your 3^d. Volume is not yett come out, I suppose.

With my respects to M^r. Astle and my best wishes
for you and your family, I remain, D^r. Sir,

Manchester April 4th 1775.

Your affect. friend & serv^t.
J. Whitaker

1775 November 13th
M^r Whiteaker

Thomas Acker Esq

Paper-Office

Treasury

Whitehall

